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Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"May I know, whether in view of the fact that an enormous amount of penal interest was collected on trivial sums, the Government would consider the desirability of changing the present system of charging penal interest on takkavi loans?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I think I have said in another connexion that the rules regarding the levy of penal interest are under revision."

Loans

Penal interest on arrears of takkavi instalments in Anantapur district.

* 452 Q.—Mr. C. OBI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases, in each of the years 1925–26, 1926–27 and 1927–28 in the district of Anantapur penal interest was levied under the Takkavi Loans Act for arrears of takkavi instalments that were due;

(b) what was the amount of arrears due in each of such cases and what was the amount of penal interest levied in each of such cases; and

(c) whether any previous intimation was given to the borrowers in each of the above cases as to the dates on which their instalments fell due?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A report has been called for.

Revenue Establishments

Appointment of Muslims as Deputy Tahsildars in Salem and other districts.

* 453 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of deputy tahsildars appointed during the preceding three years in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, South Arcot and Chingleput, and the proportion of Muslims to non-Muslims;

(b) if in any of these districts, Muhammadans have not been appointed as deputy tahsildars during the preceding three years, whether it was due to want of qualified Muhammadans, and if so, to furnish a list corrected up to 1st April 1928 of the Muhammadan public servants with their respective qualifications in those districts;

(c) whether it is a fact that a confidential circular has been issued to Collectors recently, against the appointment of persons as deputy tahsildars who are not graduates, and if so, whether exceptions have been made in the case of the backward communities; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in view of the above circular, the lists of deputy tahsildars submitted this year to the Board of Revenue have been returned unapproved to the Collectors concerned?

A.—(a) & (b) Information regarding the number of deputy tahsildars appointed during the last three years and the proportion of Muslims to non-Muslims may be gathered from the lists of Revenue Establishments which are available for reference in the Secretariat Library.

(c) & (d) No such circular has been issued either by Government or by the Board of Revenue.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether Government has recently appointed any under-graduates as deputy tahsildars ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Government do not ordinarily appoint deputy tahsildars direct. If the hon. Member refers to the annual list of appointment of probationary deputy tahsildars, I must ask for notice."

Increased pay for attenders in the Revenue Department, Nilgiris.

* 454 Q.—Mr. V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petition has been received from attenders in the Revenue Department, especially from the Nilgiris, regarding their status and pay ;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to G.O. No. 842, Public, dated 10th September 1927, there are two grades of attenders ;

(c) how many of the attenders have been promoted from the lower to higher grade ;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are no higher grade attenders in any of the mufassal revenue offices ; and

(e) whether Government will be pleased to increase their pay ?

A.—(a) Memorials from attenders in the Revenue Department in certain taluks of the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem and Ramnad have been received. No memorial from attenders in the Nilgiris district has been received.

(b) & (c) Two grades of attenders are not recognized in the Government Order. On the other hand the Government have directed that the term attender should for the future be restricted to those inferior servants who draw the scale of Rs. 20—35 (25—35 in Madras City) and that all others at present designated variously as peons, attenders, muchis, etc., should be for the future called peons.

(d) According to the Civil Budget Estimate for 1928–29 there are fourteen attenders and muchis on Rs. 20—25 in the offices of the Collectors and District Magistrates.

(e) There is no proposal to increase the pay of the men now classed as peons in mufassal revenue offices A proposal to appoint attenders, i.e., men on Rs. 20—35 in Stationary Sub-Magistrates' offices, is under consideration.

Mr. M. V. GANGADHARA SIVA :—" With reference to the answer to (e), will the Government please consider the question of increasing the pay of the peons in the next budget at least ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" If the hon. Member is referring to those who were hitherto called attenders, there is no proposal to increase their pay."